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Class X English

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NOTES

ENGLISH

FIRST FLIGHT

DUST OF SNOW

10th

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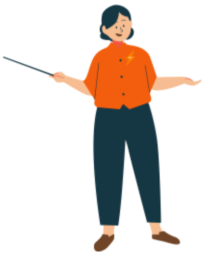

DUST OF SNOW

-by Robert Frost

Summary

Stanza- 1

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Explanation: The poet, Robert Frost, recounts a small incident that changes his mood. It seems very simple but it has a great significance. The poet was, once, very depressed and hopeless. He was in a state of sorrow and was lost in his thoughts. He was standing under the hemlock free. Suddenly a crow, that was sitting on the tree, shook the tree and the fine particles of snow from the tree fell on the poet.

Stanza- 2

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Explanation: When the soft and cold snow fell on the poet, it changed his mood from the state of sadness to happiness. He started feeling soothed (peaceful and refreshed. This simple incident helped him enjoy the remaining part of the day. He, thus, became happy as it saved his rest of the day from being wasted and held in regret.

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NCERT SOLUTIONS

THINKING ABOUT THE POEM

Question 1: What is a “dust of snow”? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet’s mood changed?

Answer: The ‘dust of snow’ refers to the snowflakes and its fine particles. The poet’s mood changed due to the sudden shower of snowflakes. He was in dismay earlier, but it changed to a happy and joyful mood as he felt refreshed and energized to enjoy the rest of the day.

Question 2: How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

(ii) Again, what is “a hemlock tree”? Why doesn’t the poet write about amore ‘beautiful’ tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?

(iii) What do the ‘crow’ and ‘hemlock’ represent — joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

Answer: In the poem, Frost presents nature in a very unconventional manner.

Generally, poets consider birds and trees to represent beauty and positive qualities such as a parrot, peacock, cuckoo, etc. and trees consist of beautiful flowers and bear tasty fruits, etc. In this poem, Frost mentions a crow in this poem, which is often not used in poems by poets. Generally, a crow is a black colour bird that has a harsh voice and is considered a symbol of bad omen. Therefore, the word ‘crow’ in the poem depicts foreboding and depressing pictures to our mind.

Frost mentions “a hemlock tree” that is a poisonous plant having small white flowers. The poet however, didn’t choose to use a maple, pine or oak tree that symbolize beauty and joyfulness. Instead, he chose the hemlock tree while leaving aside all the beautiful trees of nature to represent his sadness and regretful feelings.

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The ‘crow’ and ‘hemlock’ tree represent sorrow and depressing mood and feelings felt by the poet in this capitalistic world. The dust of snow symbolized a sense of natural joy and energy in him. The dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree refers to the sad and depressing moments experienced by the poet initially which were gone as he enters into a joyful and optimistic feeling.

Question 3: Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

Answer: Yes, there have been innumerable times when I felt sad, depressed and hopeless due to some unavoidable circumstances in my life. Sometimes, such moments were caused due to

indifferent behaviour and attitude of other people and sometimes due to my own conduct. On one occasion, I returned tired and upset from school. Upon reaching home, my puppy jumped and embraced me. This little joy literally changed my mood and I was overjoyed by such a nice gesture by the little creature and this uplifted my mood for the rest of the day. Soon I freshened up and played with my puppy for a while and caressed him with love and affection.

Conclusion of Dust of Snow

The poem teaches us a lesson that every small act in life can illuminate our soul and motivate us to do better.

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Chapter 1
Dust of Snow

- Thinking about the Poem

Q.1 What is a 'dust of snow'? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

Ans.: 'Dust of Snow' means the small particles of snow that can be felt in the air after or during snowfall. The poet is very sad and is sitting under the hemlock tree. Suddenly a crow shakes the tree, and the dust of snow falls on the poet. This incident changes the poet's mood as he starts to think about nature and beauty.

Q.2 How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?
(ii) Again, what is 'a hemlock tree? Why doesn't the poet write about a more 'beautiful' tree such as a maple or an oak, or a pine?
(iii) What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent-joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crew shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

Ans.: In this poem, Robert Frost praises and describes different sights of nature. Here he touches on different aspects of natural sights. There are many things in nature that are not considered auspicious like crows and hemlock. Generally, birds like cuckoos, sparrow and peacock which have some pleasing qualities about them are mentioned in the poems. The images of loud and unpleasant cawing come when one thinks about crows.

Crow is not considered a good bird. Similarly, hemlock tree is a poisonous tree and that is why it is the symbol of sadness. When the crow shakes off the dust of snow from the hemlock tree, it falls on the poet. Thus, the poet's mood changes due to this incident.

The poet uses these symbols to express that natural beauty can improve the human mood. Also, by using these symbols the poet hopes to steer clear of stereotypes.

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Q.3 Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

Ans.: Yes, there had been times when I felt depressed and hopeless and eventually felt relieved when the situation got sorted.

My results for twelfth standard boards were unexpected. I had prepared well but could not perform commensurately in the examinations. I felt very depressed and did not know what to do further. A few weeks later, the results of my college entrance tests arrived, and I got picked for a good college. This lifted my mood and made me believe that no trouble is permanent.

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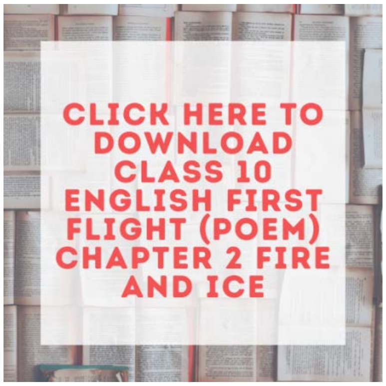

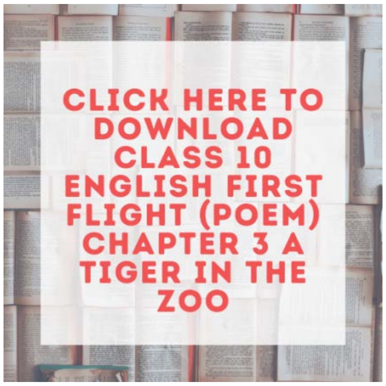

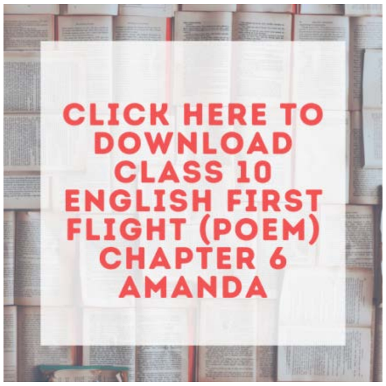

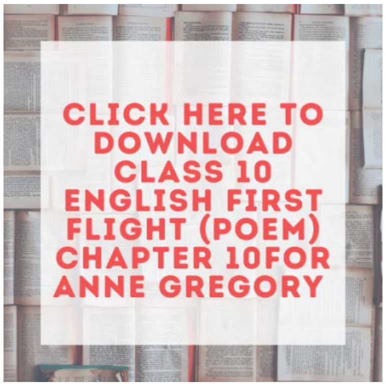

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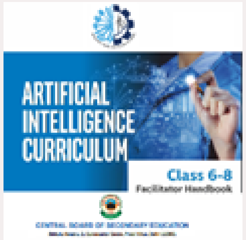

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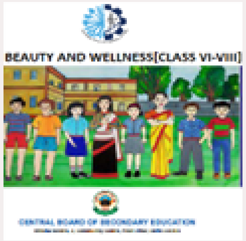

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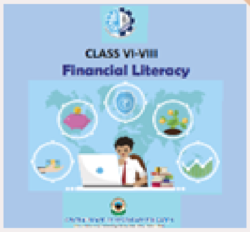

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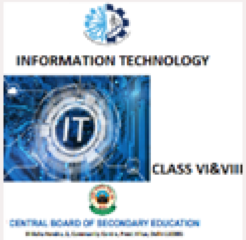

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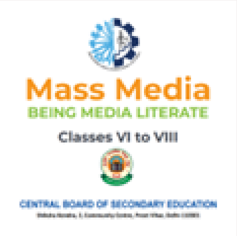

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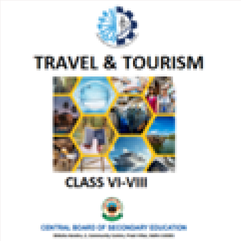

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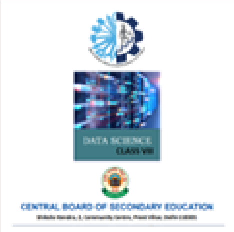

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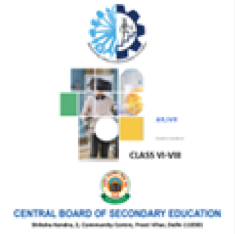

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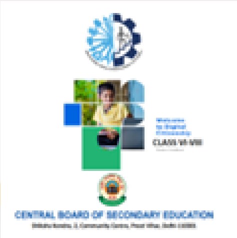

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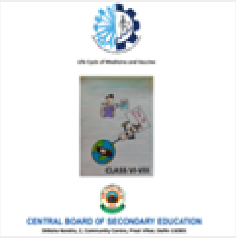

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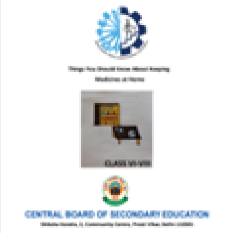
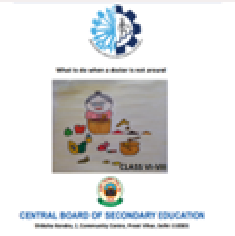


Things you should know about keeping Medicines at home



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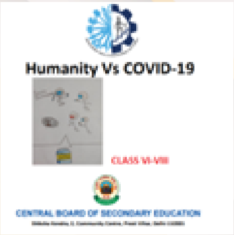
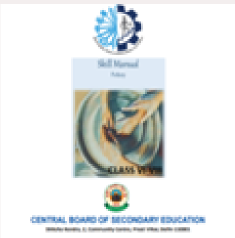
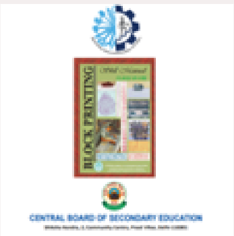


Humanity & Covid-19

Blue Pottery



Pottery



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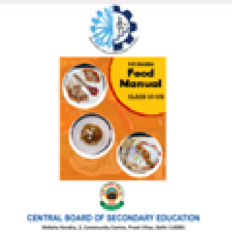
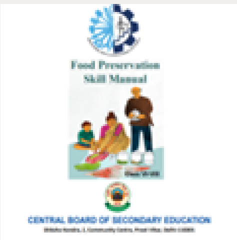
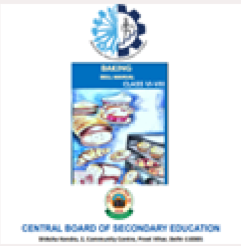


Food

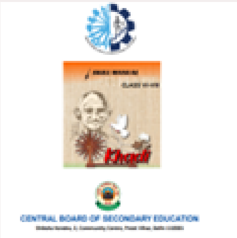


Food Preservation

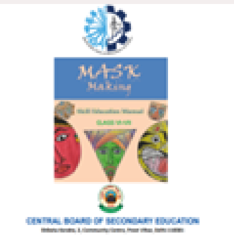


Baking

Herbal Heritage



Khadi



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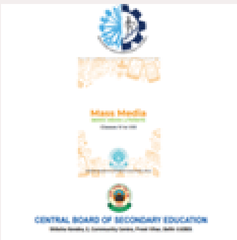

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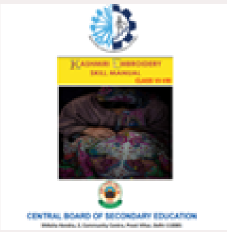
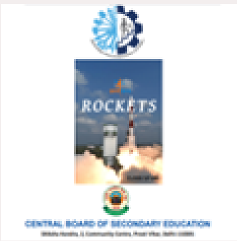
Making of a Graphic Novel



Kashmiri Embroidery

Embroidery



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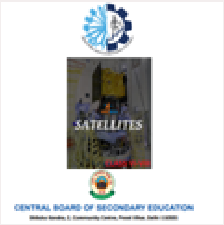
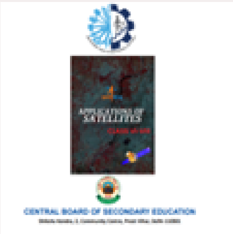
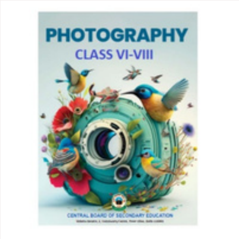


Satellites



Application of Satellites



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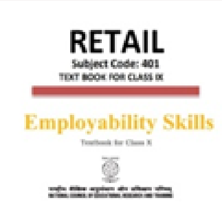

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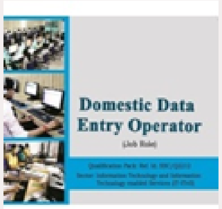
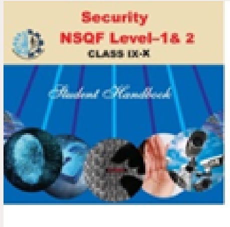
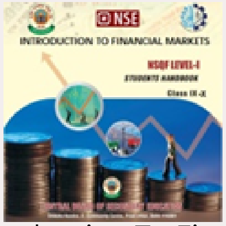


Information Technology

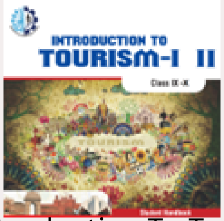


Security

Automotive

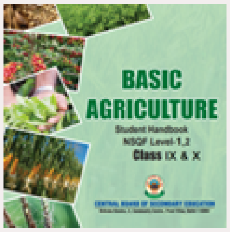


Introduction To Financial Markets

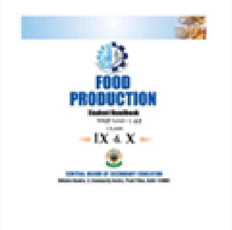


Introduction To Tourism

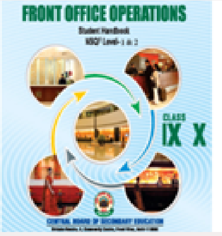
Beauty & Wellness



Agriculture



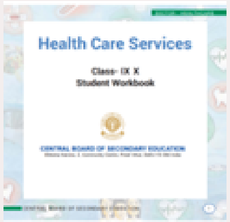
Food Production



Front Office Operations

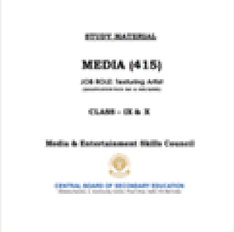
Banking & Insurance

Marketing & Sales

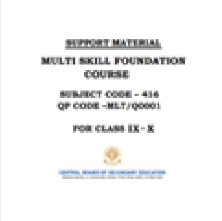


Health Care

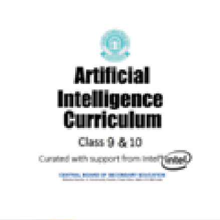
Apparel



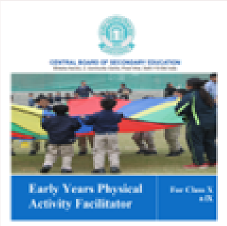
Multi Media



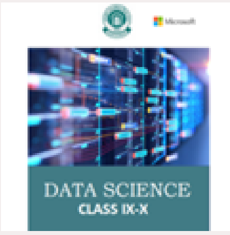
Multi Skill Foundation Course



Artificial Intelligence



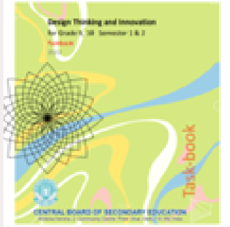
Physical Activity Trainer



Data Science

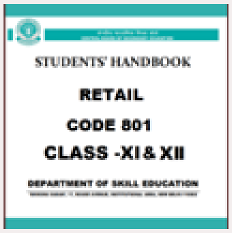
Electronics & Hardware (NEW)

Foundation Skills For Sciences (Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology)(NEW)

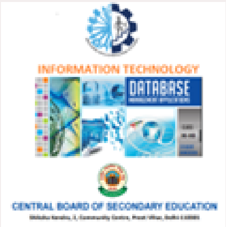


Design Thinking & Innovation (NEW)

SKILL SUBJECTS AT SR. SEC. LEVEL (CLASSES XI – XII)

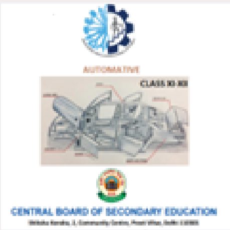


Retail



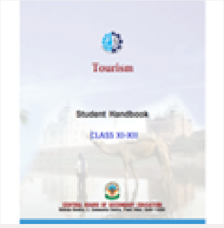
InformationTechnology

Web Application

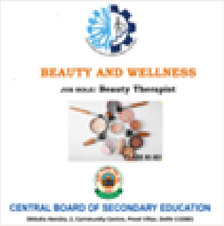


Automotive

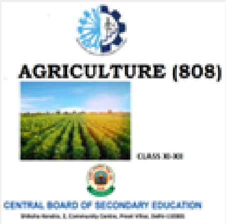
Financial Markets Management



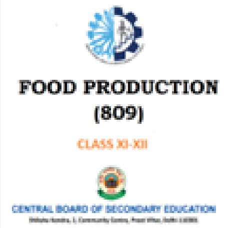
Tourism



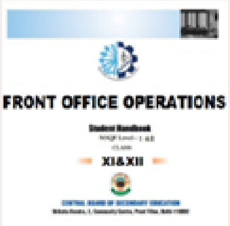
Beauty & Wellness



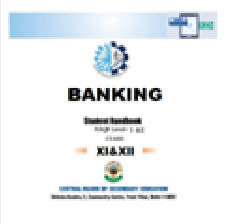
Agriculture



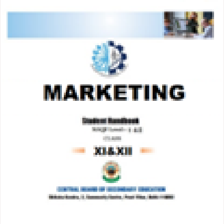
Food Production



Front Office Operations



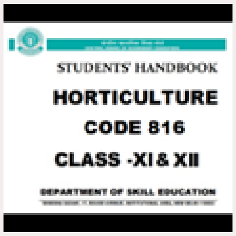
Banking



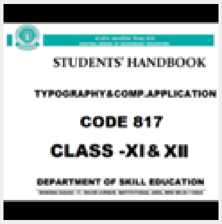
Marketing

Health Care

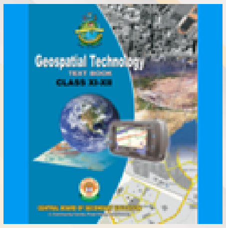
Insurance



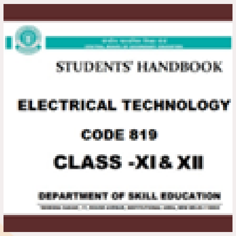
Horticulture



Typography & Comp. Application

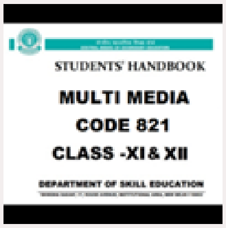


Geospatial Technology

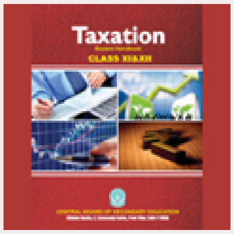


Electrical Technology

Electronic Technology

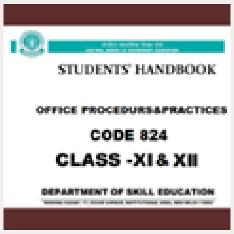


Multi-Media

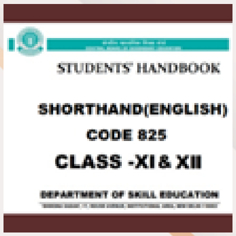


Taxation

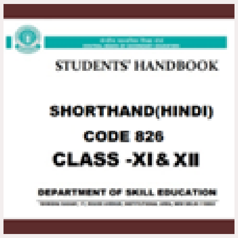
Cost Accounting



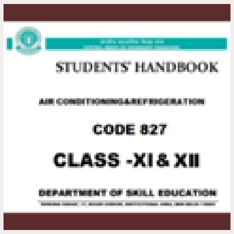
Office Procedures & Practices



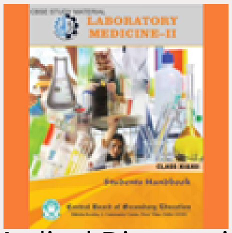
Shorthand (English)



Shorthand (Hindi)

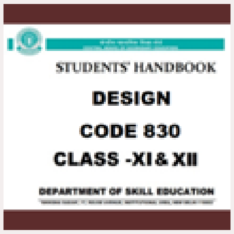


Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration

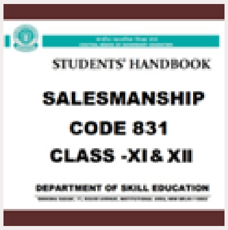


Medical Diagnostics

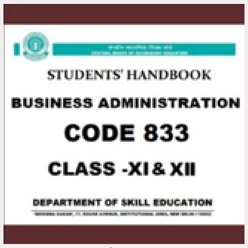
Textile Design



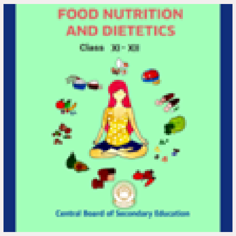
Design



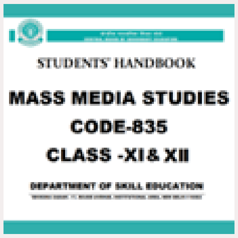
Salesmanship



Business Administration

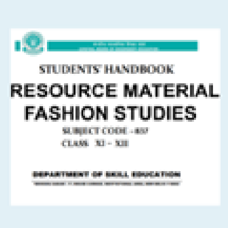


Food Nutrition & Dietetics

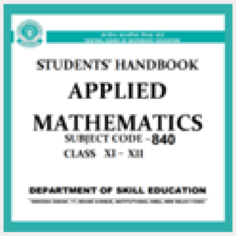


Mass Media Studies

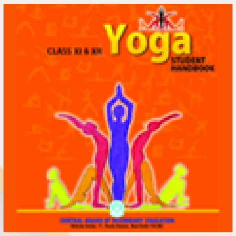
Library & Information Science



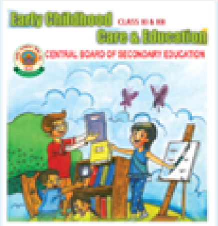
Fashion Studies



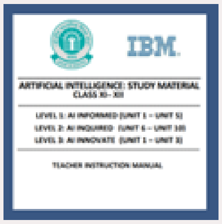
Applied Mathematics



Yoga

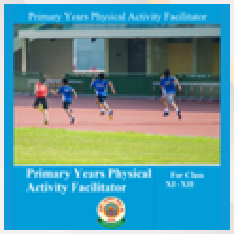


Early Childhood Care & Education

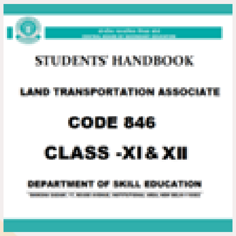


Artificial Intelligence

Data Science



Physical Activity Trainer(new)



Land Transportation Associate (NEW)

Electronics & Hardware (NEW)

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Join us on Telegram
Class 11 (Com)

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